

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**MID-PACIFIC REGION**

**SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**MILLERTON LAKE SOUTH KIOSK REPLACEMENT**

**FONSI-07-55**

Recommended by:

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## **DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT MILLERTON LAKE SOUTH KIOSK REPLACEMENT**

In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that the approval of the replacement of the South Shore Entrance Kiosks (Kiosk) will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by Reclamation's Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-07-55, *Millerton Lake South Kiosk Replacement*, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

### **BACKGROUND**

Reclamation proposes to approve of the removal of the two South Shore Entry Kiosks by California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) and the replacement of the two kiosks 100 feet farther into the park. The project is needed because ingress into MLSRA of boating traffic has been found to back up on Friant Road leading to unsafe driving conditions. The project will allow CDPR to replace facilities that are past their useful life (more than 40 years old) and deteriorating to the point they may become hazardous; and to expand the road to accommodate the larger vehicles in use today and provide a safer and more efficient area for admitting users to the boat launch area.

Two new kiosks will be constructed at the site. The entrance to the park would be widened to provide room for traffic. New pavement markings would be placed and a canopy shade covering both kiosks and the entryway into the park would also be put in place. The recommended shade covering would cover both the road and the two kiosks. During construction all equipment (steamrolls, backhoes, etc.) would remain on the construction site.

The road at the new entrance will be graded and widened to be 90 feet. Parts of existing curbs will be removed (and disposed of off site) in order to make way for the widened road and a new concrete curb will be constructed around the widened road linking with the existing curbs. Road widening will require removal of a portion of the hill beside the current road. The excavation cut will be hydro-seeded.

North of the entrance, the existing curb and pavement on the access road coming out of the parking area will be removed. The pavement area will be extended so that the parking exit will be east of the entrance kiosk. The new exit to the parking area will be 280 feet east of the entrance (90 feet east of the current exit). This pavement area will also be widened to provide staff and temporary parking as well as camper/trailer temporary parking. A concrete curb will be constructed surrounding the pavement area, linking with the existing curbs. The enclosed area between the main entrance/exit road and the staff temporary parking will be graded as required for concrete walkways and new landscaping. All landscape areas are to be filled with 4 inch shredded bark.

### **FINDINGS**

*Water Resources:* Under the Proposed Action, water use at the kiosks will decrease somewhat to 27 gallons per day due to the installation of low flow toilets. This decrease in use at the kiosks will not appreciably change the water use for MLSRA as a whole since this usage is a small percentage of the overall water use.

Relocation of the leach field will have a very small positive impact on water quality in the immediate area since the leach field will be moved from a location of inundation. Due to lack of transmissivity of the groundwater in the area the positive impacts will be very localized and very minor. No impacts to water quality will occur due to the relocation of the septic tank and leach lines.

No additional water supplies will be diverted from rivers. Overall surface and ground water quality and quantity will not change. Water will support existing kiosk use as has been done in the past. There is no impact to water resources from the Proposed Action.

*Biological Resources:* The Proposed Action area is within CTS critical habitat and therefore any ground disturbance in this area may affect CTS. The project will temporarily disturb 10,985 sq-ft of designated critical habitat. This area will be hydroseeded and will revert back to the original habitat conditions. The final footprint of the kiosks and repaving work will increase to an additional 15,000 sq-ft. Reclamation is consulting with the Fish and Wildlife Service and will determine the effects of the project after consultation is complete.

No anadromous fish or resources under jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service were identified and no consultation is required.

*Recreation:* Under the Proposed Action, recreational opportunities will remain the same as prior to the project; however, ingress into MLSRA will be smoother, faster and safer. This may lead to a more satisfying recreational experience and a slight increase in return visitation.

*Cultural Resources:* Reclamation consulted with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) because the Proposed Action was the type of activity that had the potential to affect historic properties, assuming there were present. A record search revealed that the area had been previously inventoried on two occasions and that there were no cultural resources located within the immediate area of potential effects. Although letters were issued to several Indian tribes, Reclamation received no expression of concern from the Indian contacts. In the letter that was sent to SHPO, Reclamation concluded that the Proposed Action will result in no affect to historic properties. SHPO concurred with that finding in a letter dated July 5, 2007.

*Indian Trust Assets:* There are no tribes possessing legal property interests held in trust by the United States in the land involved with the Proposed Action, therefore there will be no affect to ITAs.

*Traffic:* Under the Proposed Action, traffic turning left from Millerton Road at the south entrance of MLSRA will be relieved as more vehicles hauling boats will be able to enter the MLSRA without stacking up in Millerton Road and causing traffic congestion and potential accidents. The Proposed Action will have a positive effect on traffic on Millerton Road at the entrance station. Traffic in the general area, however, will be lessened slightly as the positive impacts will be seasonal and during peaks times of ingress into the park

*Socioeconomic Resources:* Under the Proposed Action, reduction in frustration at long times to enter the park at peak times may lead to a minute increase in tourism with an ancillary increases in tourism revenues. Compared to overall tourism revenues this potential increase is unquantifiable

and so small as to be undetectable. Employment opportunities will not undergo long-term or major changes.

*Environmental Justice:* The Proposed Action will not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease. There will be no increase in fees at the park that may affect recreational opportunities for disadvantaged populations. There will be no changes to existing conditions. Employment opportunities for low-income wage earners and minority population groups will be within historical conditions. The Proposed Action will not disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations.

*Cumulative Impacts:* The Proposed Action, when added to other past, present, and future actions does not result in additional diversions of water, or significantly impact biological, cultural, recreation or socioeconomic resources. Reclamation's replacement of the kiosks and associated repaving work will not impact water quantity or quality, cultural resources, Indian Trust Assets or socio-economic resources. There will be a slightly positive effect on recreation and traffic resources. These positive effects will not lead to cumulative impacts.